

Appl. No. 09/739,731
Amdt. Dated 2/7/2005
Reply to Office action of 1/25/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 25, 2005.

Applicant apologizes for the numbering error in the previous Response in which the Applicant stated that new claims 38-55 had been added.

In fact, Applicant only added new claims numbered 29-49. All of the claims as set forth in the previous Amendment and Response are set forth identically in this Response.

As set forth in the previous Response, in order to rewrite the claims in condition for allowance as requested by the Examiner, Applicant amended independent claims 1, 11, and 20 to include most of the limitations of dependent claims 7, 17, and 27, respectively and canceled claims 4-7, 14-17, and 23-26, without prejudice. However, Applicant has removed some of the limitations and placed them in new independent claims 29, 35, and 41. Nonetheless, based on the objected to claims in the Office Action, Applicant believes these amended claims are still patentable over the cited prior art.

Similarly, Applicant has added new independent claims 29, 35, and 41, which are based on the objected to claims of the Office Action, with some of the limitations removed. However, Applicant believes that these new claims are also clearly patentable over the cited prior art.

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Conclusion

In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3, 8-13, 18-22, and 27-49 define the subject invention over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 2/7/2005

By

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Attachments

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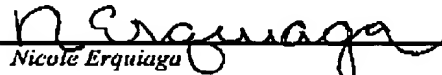
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Nicole Erquiaga Date